

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-04

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NSC-05 SS-14 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-01 /042 W

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O R 161520Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4643

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA, RH

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER: RHODESIA

AND NAMIBIA

LIMDIS

1. DURING COURSE OF COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MAY 15 HE SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA ISSUES. ON FORMER HE DESCRIBED HIS RECENT EFFORTS TO BRING ANC LEADERSHIP AND IAN SMITH TOGETHER. HE THOUGHT BOTH SIDES WERE STALLING FOR TIME; ANC BECAUSE THEY WERE SO DIVIDED AND SMITH BECAUSE HE WANTS TO PLAY ON THAT DIVISION. IN A FURTHER EFFORT TO GET THEM TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE, HE WAS SENDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE AND GENERAL VAN DER BERGH TO LUSAKA THIS WEEKEND TO TALK TO KAUNDA AND ANC LEADERS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT--AND INDEED COULD NOT-- DICTATE TERMS OF SETTLEMENT FOR SMITH. THE PARTIES WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS. HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT ZAMORA MACHEL WOULD DO AFTER JUNE 25. VORSTER DID NOT THINK THAT MACHEL PERSONALLY WANTED TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA, BUT HE WAS UNDER VERY STRONG PRESSURE FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES AND MIGHT
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EVEN BE PUSHED INTO ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. IN THIS

CONTEXT, VORSTER SAID THAT HE WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES JOIN IN ANY SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO HIS UTMOST TO "PERSUADE" SMITH TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH ANC.

2. ON NAMIBIA VORSTER STATED THAT HE AGREED WITH EVERY POINT IN THE TRIPARTITE NOTE EXCEPT FOR THE REFERENCE TO UNITED NATIONS SUPERVISION. HE SAID HE HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN THAT BODY BECAUSE THEY EQUATE SWA INDEPENDENCE WITH SWAPO. AFTER SEEING WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN ANGOLA AND THE BLOODY STRIFE WITHIN THE ANC IN RHODESIA, HE WAS NOT ABOUT TO TURN OVER SWA TO SWAPO WHICH WOULD BE THE END RESULT OF THE UN HANDLING OF SWA'S TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. VORSTER REVIEWED THE STEPS HE WAS TAKING TO HAVE ALL GROUPS PICK THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO A CONVENTION TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF SWA. HE TURNED ASIDE MY QUESTION ABOUT A TIMETABLE SAYING THAT FOR SAG TO FIX DATES WOULD OPEN SAG TO CRITICISM THAT IT WAS MANIPULATING THE TRANSITION. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR SWA REPRESENTATIVES THEMSELVES TO DECIDE CALENDAR. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PARTICIPATING ROLE HE WAS CONTEMPLATING FOR THE UN, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNSYG CHOSEN IN CONSULTATION WITH SAG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS AS AN OBSERVER BUT NOT UNSC OR UNGA INVOLVEMENT. HE LIKED ALFRED ESCHER AS UNSYG REP BUT SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT MCBRIDE IN RATHER UNFLATERING TERMS. IN REITERATING OUR POSITION ON NAMIBIA, I POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE OF BEING MORE FORTHCOMING ON UN ROLE AND TIMETABLE. I SAID HE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER THIS ASPECT IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESPONSE TO THE TRIPARTITE NOTE AND THE STATEMENT WHICH I UNDERSTOOD HE WOULD MAKE ON NAMIBIA NEXT TUESDAY. VORSTER WAS NON-COMMITTAL BUT SAID HE APPRECIATED MY CANDOR AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT THESE AND OTHER ISSUES WITH THE SAME OPENNESS. HE ASKED THAT I CALL HIM WHENEVER I THOUGHT A CONVERSATION WOULD BE USEFUL. I SAID I APPRECIATED THIS OFFER WHICH I FULLY RECIPROCATED.

3. THIS MESSAGE BEING SENT NIACT IMMEDIATE BECAUSE OF SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENT AFTER THIS MESSAGE PREPARED. NEW DEVELOPMENT COVERED IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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